

tudes of this Church,—has seen it prosper widely,—then be almost utterly crushed,—then wonderfully revived, to dwindle again in various places and in succeeding generations,—and yet after its well-nigh five centuries still to live on, and ever and anon strike fresh root,—such a student can scarcely fail to come to de Schweinitz's view: "The Moravian Church is reserved of God for some special future." It may be for that time when all lesser distinctions in creed and form will fade into the one clear light of the central Christ; when there will be no more denominational distinctions but Christ will be all in all; and then, practically, if not in name, it will be the Moravian view which will have prevailed at last.

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## THE BRETHREN'S UNITY IN GERMANY

1857—1909.

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*I. Introduction.*—With the important General Synod of 1857 a new chapter in the history of the *Unitas Fratrum* began. Up to this time all the Provinces of the Unity had been under the care of a single directing board (the Unity's Elders' Conference, at Berthelsdorf, near Herrnhut), but now the American and English Provinces were organized with Provincial Synods, and Provincial Boards. The German Province received a Provincial Synod, but the Unity's Elders' Conference, which remained the highest executive board of the Unity, continued to direct the affairs of the German Province, and it was not until 1899 that a separate German Provincial Board was established. Since then the four Provinces have formed a true Church union. As one Church they carry on the great work of the Unity, the members united by their mutual Christian faith, and certain generally accepted rules of Christian life in the congregations. They all accept the word of the Cross, and acknowledge the duty of Missions among the heathen, and the maintainance of Christian fellowship with other denominations. But on this common foundation the four Provinces have developed along their several, individual lines during the past fifty years. We take up the story of the Brethren's Unity in Germany.

The German Provincial Elders' Conference consists of two sections. One, composed of five brethren, has general charge of Church and School affairs; the other is the Finance Committee, with three members. The German Province owns a large number of businesses,